

Word For The Week

6 September 2019

Preaching Dates

7 September 2019

Charles Sommerville at PWMI Conference,
Kelty Evangelical Church, Fife

8 September 2019

Glen Cartwright (am) at
Fusion, Newton Mearns Baptist Church
Charles Sommerville (am) at
Cumbernauld Baptist Church

Jackie Macdonald (pm) at
Footdee Mission Hall, Aberdeen
Jim O'Hara (pm) at Perth Baptist Church
Charles Sommerville (pm) at
Bo'ness Baptist Church

Stephen Ilett (am + pm) at
Fort William Baptist Church

12 September 2019

Stan Paliwoda (pm) at
Antonine House Care Home, Bearsden



“Great is Your Faithfulness”

By Jim O'hara

If you have used a satellite navigation device, you may have found you were not where you expected to be. Recently, we were heading to a country park and were confronted with a road sign 'if your sat nav has directed you here and you are looking for XXXX park, go further down the road, and second right'.

A recent news article told of a new application for locating where we are or where we are going, called 'what3words'. It's a free application you can download, where your location is defined in 3m x 3m squares and identified by a combination of three words. This is being used by various services to enable locations to be immediately known. So as well as '12 Eagle Avenue' my home address is also 'initiates.thunder.erupts'.

Whilst the sat nav directs us to a general area that includes our destination, 'what3words' takes us to an exact location! The BBC reported on a group who were lost walking in Northumberland, when they managed to phone 999 they were told to download the app. As a result, the rescue team went directly to them!

This may help us reflect on the focus we have as we teach, are we fully focused on the word? I was privileged to attend the Cornhill College (Glasgow), where very able teachers of the Word, emphasised the need to focus on what the Word actually says! Not Godplus or Godminus, where we add interpretation or dilute it. What is the structure of the passage? What are the key messages? Within SBLPA we were fortunate to have Peter Grainger teach the structured approach and his book 'Firm Foundations' is an excellent aid. Our teaching of the Word is as vital today, as it was for the early church, Acts 6 tells how the priority of the disciples was the teaching ministry of the Word. (Acts 6v2) and how as a result: 'The Word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly'.

Paul in 1Timothy4 says 'This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance (and for this we labour and strive), that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, and especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things..., but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. ...devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and teaching... Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. **Watch your life and doctrine closely.** Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.'